

Message Text

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TAGS: GATT, AORG

SUBJECT: 1927 BUDGET ESTIMATES

REF: GATT DOC L/4370

WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT UPDATED BUDGETARY INFORMATION ON THE GATT FOR FY 1977 AND 1978. AS A PART OF THIS EXERCISE AND ALSO IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE GATT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE REVIEWED THE REFERENCED DOCUMENT AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE MISSION'S COOPERATION IN ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. (PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO REF DOC.) A RESPONSE IS NEEDED BY COB AUG. 7.

A.) PART I, SECTION 2(I), PAGE 14--WHY WAS THE 1976 BUDGET UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE SO MUCH LOWER THAN THE 1975 EXPEN-

DITURE AND 1977 PROPOSED BUDGET?

B.) REGRADING, DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, PAGE 18--MUCH OF THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS REGRADING SEEMS TO BE BASED ON THE INCUMBENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES WITH ASPECT TO THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATION AND CURRENT EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS, OR AT LEAST THE SECRETARIAT'S PARTICIPATION IN THEM COULD WELL BE CONCLUDED BEFORE FY1977 BEGINS. IN

ANY CASE, THE TP EXERCISE OR OTHER MTN RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD SEEM A WEAK JUSTIFICATION FOR A PERMANENT REGRADING OF THE POSITION. HAS THE SECRETARIAT CONSIDERED A TEMPORARY REGRADING? IS THE SECRETARIAT PREPARED TO PUSH FOR THE REGRADING OF THE POSITION IN THE ABSENCE OF THE TP RELATED JUSTIFICATION? DOES THE MTN DEL HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS PROPOSED REGRADING?

C.) PART II, SECTION 2(I), (III), AND (V), PAGES 23-25-- THE 1977 BUDGETS FOR THESE ITEMS ARE AT EITHER THE SAME LEVEL AS 1976 (ITEM I) OR A LOWER LEVEL THAN 1976. WHILE WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THIS, IT IS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL IN TODAYS INFLATIONARY WORLD AND WE WOULD LIKE AN EXPLANATION.

D.) PART II, SECTION 2(VIII), PAGE 26--THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR JOINT SERVICES CALLS FOR ALMOST A 40 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 1976 BUDGET WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION. ALTHOUGH THE ABSOLUTE AMOUNT INVOLVED IS NOT LARGE, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IS AND WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY.

E.) PART II, SECTION 3(IV)(G)(H) AND (I), PAGE 30--THE DECREASED BUDGET FOR ITEM G, CLEANING MATERIALS, DOES NOT SEEM CONSISTENT WITH THE INCREASE OF OVER 100 PERCENT FOR ITEM I, CASUAL LABOR, FOR CLEANING OF THE GATT PREMISES. LIKEWISE THE LEVEL BUDGET FOR ITEM H, MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE, SEEMS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL IN LIGHT OF THE GATT'S ANTICIPATED MOVE INTO LARGER FACILITIES WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY REQUIRE A PROPORTIONATLY GREATER AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE.

F.) PART II, SECTION 3(VIII), PAGE 31--WE WOULD APPRECIATE A MORE THOROUGH EXPLANATION OF THE 30 PERCENT INCREASE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE EXTERNAL AUDIT.

G.) PART II, SECTION 3(IV), PAGE 32--DOES THE PROVISION FOR SF 150,000 FOR THE GIM II SYSTEM REFLECT THE GATT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SYSTEM? (SEE MTN GENEVA 5855.) KISSINGER

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